

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
July 27, 2017

Fisheries Under	Treaty commercial sturgeon set line
Consideration:	Below Bonneville Dam and Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries YN tributary fisheries

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent relevant report is the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of six major management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), and Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB). The MCB component is comprised of Bonneville Upriver Bright (BUB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Brights (LRB).
- The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tules and the LRW, SAB, URB, and MCB stocks are referred to as brights.
- The URB, BPH, and PUB Chinook are destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam, and in aggregate comprise the upriver run. Lower river components include SAB, LRH, LRW, LRB, and BUB Chinook stocks.
- The forecast for the 2017 fall Chinook adult return to the Columbia River totals 613,800 fish which would be similar (96%) to the 2016 actual return of 642,400 and 84% of the 2007-2016 average return (727,600).
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total nearly 403,600 upriver fall Chinook adults for the season. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 9.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is mainly A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake basins.
- The forecast for the combined A/B-Index steelhead return to Bonneville Dam totals 119,400 fish, including 41,500 unclipped (34,100 wild) fish. The A-Index forecast is 54% and the B-Index forecast is 25% of their respective 5-year averages.
- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1-25 total 10,418 fish, which is much less than expected (~20,800) and is the lowest cumulative passage since 1943. Passage at

Bonneville Dam (July-October) is typically 50% complete by August 13. The count of unclipped steelhead from July 1-25 totals 6,025 which is the lowest cumulative count of unclipped fish since 1995.

- The clip rate for A/B Index steelhead to date is 42.2% which is very low compared to typical runs.
- One unclipped B-Index steelhead has been sampled at Bonneville Dam on July 5. All of the other 261 steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish.

Coho

- The 2017 coho forecast to the Columbia River is for a return of 319,300 adults, which includes 196,800 early stock and 122,500 late stock. The forecast is 93% of the recent 5-year average of 344,500 fish.
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 97,400 adult coho, which represents 79% of the total ocean abundance of Columbia River coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- No coho have been counted at Bonneville to date which is not unusual.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted				
		2016		2017
		Forecast	Return	Forecast *
Fall Chinook	Total Fall Chinook	960,000	642,415	613,840
	Lower River Hatchery - LRH	142,500	81,492	98,750
	Lower River Wild - LRW	22,400	12,315	13,610
	Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	100,700	41,270	164,390
	Upriver Bright – URB	579,600	412,851	275,210
	<i>Snake River Wild - SRW</i>	<i>19,700</i>	<i>14,500</i>	<i>12,400</i>
	Bonneville Upriver Bright - BUB ***	21,300	9,629	3,470
	Lower River Bright - LRB	1,300	11,000	220
	Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	76,400	67,182	44,490
	Select Area Bright - SAB	15,800	6,676	13,700
Coho	Total Coho	322,600	195,601	319,300
	Early stock	132,900	116,658	196,800
	Late stock	189,700	78,943	122,500
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	256,200	171,806	119,400
(to Bonneville Dam)	Group A-run Index (total)	230,400	128,890	112,100
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>89,100</i>	<i>29,146</i>	<i>33,000</i>
	Group B-run Index (total)	25,800	42,916	7,300
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>7,400</i>	<i>3,469</i>	<i>1,100</i>
* Components may not sum to totals shown since individual forecasts are not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries. Wild components are included in the stock total.				
** production moved to PUB – only age-5 returning in 2017				7/17/2017

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The "2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement" (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, steelhead, and coho.
 - The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries based on the pre-season forecasts.
 - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
 - The allowable impact to wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during the fall season is 2% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, the treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead.
 - The goal for upriver coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
 - Fisheries are managed based on actual run sizes, not just pre-season forecasts.

Sturgeon

- The 2017 Zone 6 sturgeon harvest guidelines for Treaty fisheries are 325 fish each for the Bonneville and The Dalles pools and 295 fish for the John Day pool.

2017 TREATY FISHERIES

Sturgeon Setline

- 2017 tribal sturgeon catches are shown in the table below. There are 157 sturgeon remaining in the Bonneville Pool and 136 sturgeon remaining in the John Day Pool.

Reservoir	January Setline	Winter Gill Net	Commercial Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	0	295	295	325	30
The Dalles	0	325	325	325	0
John Day	0	159	159	295	136
Total	0	779	779	945	166

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2017 Treaty Indian Commercial Sturgeon Setline Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 AM Tuesday August 1 to 6 PM Saturday August 12
Area:	John Day Pool Only
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to setline gear

Gear:	Setline Gear. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks and avoid J-hooks. It is unlawful to use setline gear with more than 100 hooks per set line, with hooks less than the minimum size of 9/0, with treble hooks, without visible buoys attached, and with buoys that do not specify operator and tribal identification.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in the John Day Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal size limit and caught in the platform and hook and line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open area of the set line fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. It is unlawful to sell, barter, or attempt to sell or barter sturgeon eggs that have been removed from the body cavity of a sturgeon prior to sale of the sturgeon to a wholesale dealer licensed, or to sell or barter sturgeon eggs at retail. It is unlawful to deliver to a wholesale dealer any sturgeon that are not in the round with the head and tail intact.

- The tribes expect low effort and moderate catch in the proposed setline fishery and anticipate that based on previous early August sturgeon fisheries, the catch will likely be less than the 136 fish available in the John Day Pool guideline.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remains within management limits. Fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest limits are projected to be met early.

Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries

- The commercial sale of fish caught with hoopnet, dipnet, or hook-and-line will be allowed by the Columbia River treaty tribes during the fall season which begins August 1.
- Oregon and Washington regulations that are currently in place to allow sales for Zone 6 treaty mainstem and tributary fisheries are scheduled to expire on August 1.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Fishery –Zone 6 Commercial Platform and Hook and Line</i>	
Season:	12:01 AM August 1 through 6:00 PM October 31.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon of legal size may be sold during the open period and open area of the setline fishery, otherwise sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries in place for this gear type.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are expected throughout the fall season. The Yakama Nation allows commercial sale of Zone 6 tributary catch when sales are open for the Zone 6 platform fishery.

<i>2016 Yakama Nation Commercial Fisheries - Zone 6 Tributaries</i>	
Season:	12:01 AM August 1 through 6:00 PM December 31, and only during days and times open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
Area:	Drano Lake and Klickitat River.
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length may be kept for subsistence.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- During the fall season some tribes may open fisheries in the area below Bonneville Dam consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs between the states and tribes. The harvest downstream of Bonneville is expected to be relatively low. The catch downstream of Bonneville is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.

<i>2016 Treaty Fishery - Downstream of Bonneville Dam: Commercial Platform and Hook and Line</i>	
Season:	12:01 AM August 1 through 11:59 PM October 31, and only during days and times allowed under tribal rules.
Area:	Area as defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Participants:	Enrolled members of the Yakama, Warm Springs, Nez Perce, and Umatilla tribes when lawfully permitted by Treaty regulations under provisions of the agreements with the states of Oregon and Washington. Tribal members fishing below Bonneville Dam must carry an official tribal enrollment card.
Gear:	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Fisheries will be modified as needed to keep harvest impacts to within allowed limits for the Zone 6 platform/hook and line fish.
- The tribes expect to present plans for the first fall season commercial gillnet fisheries at the Compact Hearing on August 16.